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Item: Situation in North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic)

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-- Factional politics of N. Yemen appear to be closing in on President Salih.

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-- Aden-backed National Democratic Front (NDF) has gained control of large parts of the country. Salih's balancing act with the Soviets and Saudis is failing.

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-- Salih's government could fall within the next month as support by the northern bedouin tribes evaporates. Gap could be filled by parties much more susceptible to Moscow's blandishments.

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-- Impact of developments could be substantial for Saudis if a leftist regime is installed in Sana. NIO/NESA will produce an SNIE on the situation. Final product to policy makers within two weeks.

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Action Officer:

NIO/NESA

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